

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING TIME OFFSET TO  
MINISLOT CLOCK AND COUNT IN HEADEND DEVICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for allocating an initial maintenance request (IMR) for an upstream channel in a communications system, wherein the communication system includes a headend and at least one remote device associated with the channel. A first propagation delay from the headend to the remote device having the greatest delay is determined. Likewise, a second propagation delay from the headend to the remote device experiencing the least delay is determined. The IMR is then defined to be shorter than the first propagation delay and at least as long as the difference between the two propagation delays. The starting point of the IMR is established by modifying the clock output of the headend. A modification value is added to the headend clock output. The modification value corresponds to a time interval that can be as long as the propagation delay from the headend to the remote having the shortest delay.